



16th June 2011

British English edition

Issue Number 147

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Protesters wave Vietnamese flags during an anti-China demonstration in front of the Chinese embassy in Hanoi

ISLAND DISPUTE IN SOUTH CHINA SEA

On 14th June, Nguyen Tan Dung, the prime minister of Vietnam, issued a surprising order. It listed people who would be 'called up' or made to serve in the country's navy, army and air force if a war were to break out. The day before this, Vietnamese navy ships had used real ammunition during a practice, or exercise, in the South China Sea.

The order and the naval exercise are the result of a serious disagreement between Vietnam and China. Both countries claim ownership of several uninhabited island groups, or archipelagos, in the South China Sea.

The archipelagos are named on many maps as the Spratly and Paracel Islands and the Scarborough Shoal. All are disputed territories. This is because several countries, including Vietnam, Taiwan, Brunei, Malaysia, and the Philippines, all claim to own some of the small islands

and reefs. Yet Chinese leaders insist that nearly all of them belong to China.

Ownership of these groups of islands is important. This is because large amounts of oil and gas are believed to be under the seabed. Whoever owns the islands has the right to drill for oil in the area around them. The owners of the islands also own the fishing rights in the surrounding sea.

What's more, the South China Sea is a very busy and important shipping route. Many large ships, which carry goods to and from countries in Asia, Europe and Africa, sail through the South China Sea every day.

In the past, a law known as 'the freedom of the sea' stated that a country owned the area of sea three nautical miles from its coastline. One nautical mile is roughly 1.85 kilometres (1.15 miles). All the remaining parts of the sea were free for ships from any country to sail through.

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By the 1930s, many countries wanted to extend this sea area. They realised there may be valuable minerals, such as oil and gas, under the seabed. They also wanted to stop boats from other countries catching fish around their coastlines.

Eventually the United Nations (UN) decided that new rules governing who owned different parts of the sea were needed. In 1982 many countries agreed to a new set of laws, called the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCOLS).

The old three nautical mile limit would be extended to 200 nautical miles (370 kilometres). This 200-mile limit is now known as a country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). If countries' EEZs overlapped, the dividing line would be of equal distance from each country.

However, Chinese leaders insist the groups of islands in the South China Sea are historically part of China. Chinese people, they say, have fished in the seas surrounding the islands for hundreds of years.

In the late 1940s, Chinese leaders produced a map of the South China Sea that included nine dashes marking the area belonging to China. Yet the map does not show how the dashes should be joined up. As this nine-dash map was made before 1982, Chinese officials say, the UNCOLS laws do not apply to the South China Sea.

Recently there have been several incidents when Vietnamese and Chinese ships have met in the South China Sea. China says Vietnamese ships have chased Chinese fishing boats away from some of the islands. Vietnam, meanwhile, claims Chinese ships deliberately cut cables used by its ships that were [surveying](#) the seabed close to the Paracels.

On 5th June many people demonstrated outside the Chinese embassy in



Map showing the nine dashes used by China to show it owns the islands in the South China Sea

Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam. Some held banners that said the islands belong to Vietnam. Another similar demonstration took place in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam's largest city.

Vietnam has recently arranged to buy six submarines from Russia. China has also been increasing the size of its navy. It has opened a new submarine base on Hainan Island, on the edge of the South China Sea. It will soon launch its first aircraft carrier.

Vietnam is not the only country in dispute with China over the islands in the South China Sea. The government of the Philippines has accused China of building some structures on a small island reef within its EEZ in the past. Yet, at the time, China insisted these were only fishing huts.

Earlier this month the Philippines complained again. It said a Chinese ship had been seen bringing building materials to a small reef close to Palawan, one of the larger Philippine islands. On 13th June the Philippines announced it will no longer use the

name South China Sea. Instead, it will call it the 'West Philippine Sea'.

China says it does not intend to cause problems in the South China Sea and is willing to talk to other countries about the disputed islands. But it insists these talks be bilateral, or between just two countries. Yet Vietnam, the Philippines and others that claim ownership of the islands want to discuss the problem all together in one large [forum](#), or with the help of other countries such as the USA. ■

ELECTION IN TURKEY

A parliamentary election was held in Turkey on 12th June. The Justice and Development Party (AK Party) won and its leader, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, was re-elected prime minister. He has been Turkey's leader since 2003 and this was the third election that he has won.

Turkey's parliament, the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, has 550 seats. Elections are held every

four years. The leader of the party with the most seats in parliament becomes prime minister. The prime minister runs the country, although the head of state is the president. In the past, members of parliament elected the president. But starting from next year, the Turkish people will take part in the presidential election. The current Turkish president is Abdullah Gül.

The AK party won 326 seats, 15 fewer than at the last election. The second-placed party, the Republican People's Party (CHP) got 135 seats, which was 23 more than last time.

Turkey's economy is doing very well. The number of people without jobs has been falling. Prime Minister Erdoğan is a popular leader. Before the election he promised to start more large building projects, including new airports, schools, hospitals and bridges. A new city is also planned close to Istanbul, the largest city in the country.



Prime Minister Erdoğan

Since the early 1920s Turkey has been a secular state. This means that religion and how people are governed should be kept separate. In a secular state the government should not support any particular religion and people should be able to follow any religious faith they wish to.

Most people in Turkey are Muslims. In the past, there have been arguments about whether the AK Party agrees with Turkey being a secular state. For instance, there

have been disagreements over when and where women wear a headscarf. When Mr Gül became president there were arguments because his wife chooses to wear a headscarf. Some people accuse Prime Minister Erdoğan and his party of planning to change some of the country's secular laws.

Turkey is often described as being at the 'crossroads' of Europe and Asia. It is a member of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) and would like to join the European Union (EU). Some people in the Arab countries that are now planning to elect their own leaders say they would like to have a political system similar to Turkey's. ■

SEA SALT SATELLITE

On 10th June an international satellite was sent into space on top of a powerful rocket that was launched from an air force base in the USA. The satellite is designed to orbit the Earth and provide information about how much salt is in the world's oceans.

The satellite, called Aquarius/SAC-D, is a joint space mission. NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) built the launch rocket and provided the equipment to keep the satellite in orbit. The measuring instruments have been made by the space agency of Argentina (Comisión Nacional de Actividades Espaciales, or CONAE). France, Italy, Canada, and Brazil also helped to design some of the satellite's equipment.

The Aquarius satellite will orbit the Earth once every 98 minutes at a height of 657 kilometres (408 miles). The satellite will take measurements of all parts of the world's oceans every seven days. This

NewsCAST

SUITCASE THIEF — Two Polish men in Spain have been arrested for stealing items from people's suitcases on airport busses. During the journey to the airport, luggage is kept in a compartment, or hold, underneath the bus. One of the men bought a ticket on the bus and put his suitcase in the luggage compartment. The other man was curled up inside his suitcase. On the journey this man would get out and open the other bags to steal things. He had a mobile phone to keep in touch with the man on the bus. When the bus approached the airport, he got back into the suitcase to be carried off with the stolen goods.

information will be transmitted to scientists in the USA and Argentina.

The equipment is able to record tiny differences in the amount of salt in different parts of the oceans. Currently, the amount of salt is measured by ships and floating instruments called buoys. It's estimated that, in one month, Aquarius will be able to record the same amount of information that the ships and buoys have managed to collect over the last 125 years.

From the information it collects, the satellite will make complete 'salt maps' of the Earth's oceans. The maps will show the difference in the saltiness of surface seawater. Scientists will therefore be able to see how this saltiness changes every seven days throughout the year's different seasons.

Seawater that evaporates into the atmosphere eventually falls somewhere else as rain. When it evaporates, the salt is left behind. So where there is a lot of evaporation the sea becomes slightly saltier. Seawater also becomes

less salty around melting ice, where rivers flow into it, and where there is very heavy rain over the sea.



Artist's impression of Aquarius/SAC-D

The scientists think studying the salt maps will help them to learn more about the changing climate and how seawater circulates in the oceans. It will also provide more information about the Earth's water cycle. This is the process by which seawater evaporates to make clouds, then falls as rain, which travels through the soil into rivers and flows back to the sea.

The Aquarius satellite is expected to continue to make recordings for three years. ■

OPEC MEETING

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) held its latest meeting on 8th June. Its 12 members are some of the world's biggest oil-producing countries.

OPEC usually meets twice a year. The meetings are often held at its headquarters in Vienna, the capital of Austria. The main reason for these meetings is to agree how much oil each member country should produce.

The members do this to try to control the price of oil. When an organisation or group of companies tries to fix prices in this way it is known as a cartel.

Oil is very important to most countries. It is needed for heating, making

petrol and diesel for transport, and generating electricity. Oil is priced in US dollars and measured in units called barrels. One barrel represents 159 litres of oil.

OPEC members produce around 45% of all the oil used in the world. Currently they pump up a total of about 25 million barrels of oil per day. OPEC countries earn a lot of money from oil, which is why they try to control its price.

If more oil is produced than the world needs, there is a surplus. When this happens the price drops – because there is plenty and people can get it easily. If less oil is produced than needed there is a shortage – or deficit – and the price goes up.

OPEC member countries try not to produce a surplus. If they do, the price they are paid for their oil



goes down. They also want to avoid a shortage. This is because they don't want oil to become so expensive that companies and people reduce the amount they use.

OPEC is always trying to work out how much oil the world needs – and how much companies and people will pay before they start reducing the amount they use or start looking for alternatives. OPEC uses quotas to try to make the right amount. Each member country agrees to how much it will produce. OPEC then hopes the total figure will mean that there is neither a shortage nor surplus of oil.

Today the price of oil is around US\$118 per barrel. Only one year ago it was US\$80 a barrel. Increased demand – mostly from countries with fast-growing economies such as China, India and Brazil – has made the price rise.

OPEC members usually agree on the quotas. Yet the recent meeting was different. Saudi Arabia – OPEC's largest oil producer – and some other members want to increase the amount OPEC produces. They think the current price is much too high and may affect, or slow down, many countries' economies. If this happens, Saudi Arabia says, these countries will use less oil and the price may suddenly fall.

Saudi Arabia is able to easily increase how much oil it pumps up per day. However, other members, such as Venezuela and Iran, are producing as much as they can. These countries disagreed with Saudi Arabia, as an increase in quotas would not help them. They would prefer to keep a high price per barrel so they can make as much money as possible from what they currently produce.

The OPEC countries did not reach an agreement to increase production. It was decided to leave the quotas as they are until the next meeting in December.

OPEC member countries once produced a higher percentage of the oil used in the world. Yet now their ability, or power, to control oil prices is weakening. Russia, which produces about 15% of the oil the world uses, is not an OPEC member. It and other countries may increase, or decrease, the amount of oil they produce whenever they want to. ■

OPEC MEMBER COUNTRIES

Algeria	Nigeria
Angola	Qatar
Ecuador	Saudi Arabia
Iran	United Arab
Iraq	Emirates
Kuwait	Venezuela
Libya	

E. COLI – GOOD AND BAD

by Anna Grayson

E. coli, which is short for *Escherichia coli*, is a type of bacteria. Recently *E. coli* has been found to be the cause of thousands of people becoming ill with food poisoning in Germany. Some people who have travelled to Germany have fallen ill in other countries too.

There is not just one type, or strain, of *E. coli*, though. Some, such as the one that has been in the news, are dangerous, but other strains can be very useful.

Like all bacteria, *E. coli* are very small single-celled organisms. Each one is a tiny sausage-shaped cell filled with fluid and DNA. They live quite naturally in the alimentary canal, or gut, of mammals. (This is the long tube, starting at the mouth and including the stomach and intestines, by which humans and other mammals digest food and dispose of the remaining solid waste.)

Your gut is full of *E. coli*. Most are helpful, doing useful things such as breaking down certain carbohydrates that you have eaten. They also help to make vitamin K. The *E. coli* inside you don't usually make you ill, as long as they are not one of the dangerous types and they stay in your gut.

It's known that 'unhelpful', or dangerous, strains of *E. coli* can cause food poisoning in humans. This can happen if unwashed and uncooked *E. coli*-infected vegetables are eaten. Some food poisoning incidents have happened when manure from animals such as cows, which have the dangerous *E. coli* in their gut, has been spread on fields where vegetables are grown. The bacteria in the manure then get into the soil, from where they can attach themselves to the growing vegetables.

If a person eats infected vegetables raw, *E. coli* may enter his or her gut. The bacteria quickly multiply in the warmth of the body. Yet the body will usually realise that the bacteria are 'unfriendly' and quickly try to get rid of them. This

is why a person is sick or has diarrhoea soon after eating something harmful, as the body tries to flush it out.

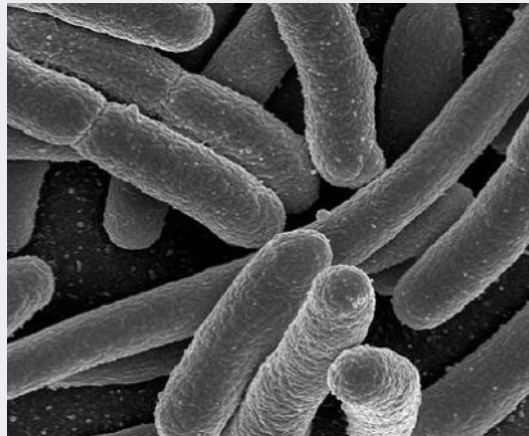
To find out exactly which type of *E. coli* was causing the outbreak of food poisoning in Germany, scientists had to de-code the bacterium's DNA in the laboratory. They discovered it is a rare strain called *E. coli* 0104.

This strain of *E. coli* is unusual as it sticks to the walls of the intestines. There the bacteria give off **toxins**, which can pass through the intestine walls and into the bloodstream. If they reach the kidneys, the toxins can cause a medical condition known as Haemolytic-uraemic Syndrome, or HUS. This can be fatal. It is these toxins that have made many people so ill in Germany. Of over 3,000 people who have fallen ill from food poisoning, 37 have died. All of these people had HUS.

Not all *E. coli* are harmful, and scientists use certain strains all the time in their laboratories. *E. coli*'s DNA can be modified, or changed, easily and the bacteria multiply very quickly. By inserting a new piece of DNA into *E. coli*, scientists can make useful proteins, such as insulin. This is the substance needed by

people who have diabetes. Certain vaccines can be made using *E. coli*, and in future some cancer treatments may also be developed this way.

Some scientists are now doing experiments to see if *E. coli* bacteria can be used to make biofuels as a **substitute** for petrol. Another amazing idea, which has just been written about in the American journal *Science*, is to use the DNA of bacteria to make a new kind of computer in the future. This may not seem so unlikely when you think that computers work using code, and that DNA itself is a type of code. So you never know: one day in the distant future you might even be using an '*E. coli* bacterial DNA computer'!



Picture of *E. coli* bacteria taken through a microscope

FOOD POISONING BLAMED ON BEAN SPROUTS

On 10th June German officials said bean sprouts may be the most likely cause of the recent outbreak of food poisoning in several European countries. The bean sprouts, they say, were grown on a farm near the city of Hamburg, where most of the affected people live.

The food poisoning has been caused by a type, or strain, of the *E. coli* (*Escherichia coli*) bacterium. Many types of *E. coli* are harmless to humans, but this strain can cause people to become very sick. It produces toxins that can affect the kidneys. Over 37 people have died from the food poisoning and more than 3,000 have fallen ill.

Admitting German-grown bean sprouts were probably the cause of the problem is embarrassing for Germany. Soon after people began falling ill in the Hamburg area at the beginning of May, officials blamed the problem on cucumbers grown in Spain. Farmers in Spain grow many salad vegetables such as cucumbers, tomatoes and lettuce, which are then sold to other European countries.



Bean sprouts

German officials warned people not to eat cucumbers or other salad vegetables grown in Spain. The Spanish farmers insisted there was nothing wrong with the vegetables they grew. They were angry, as after the German warning people in

many other parts of Europe stopped buying their vegetables. The farmers had to destroy and throw away many of their crops, as they could no longer sell them. Many farmers in Spain have lost a lot of money. Later, scientific tests showed that the Spanish cucumbers were not the cause of the food poisoning.

It is not just farmers in Spain who have lost money. As the number of people falling ill with food poisoning kept increasing, people in many European countries were so worried that they didn't buy any salad vegetables, no matter where they were grown. This means farmers in other countries such as The Netherlands, France, Portugal, and Germany have also been affected.

The European Union (EU) held an emergency meeting in Luxembourg on 7th June to discuss the problem. Officials announced that compensation, or money, would be paid to farmers who had been forced to destroy their vegetables. Yet many farmers insist that the €210 million (£187 million) the EU has offered to pay is not enough.

Around 20% of the salad vegetables eaten in Russia come from European countries. Soon after the food poisoning outbreak started Russian officials announced a ban on all European-grown vegetables. Russia insists it will not lift, or remove, this ban until the cause of the food poisoning outbreak is known for certain.

Bean sprouts, often used in salads and stir-fry dishes, have been blamed for food poisoning outbreaks in other countries in the past. However, the strain of *E. coli* that causes the illness has not been found at the farm where the bean sprouts were grown. Yet officials say many of the people who had fallen ill had

eaten dishes containing bean sprouts from this farm. Several of the farm's workers have also become ill.

The number of people with food poisoning is now decreasing. German officials admit that they may now never know where the *E. coli* strain that caused the problem came from. ■

NEOLITHIC BUILDERS IN BRITAIN

Scientists in the UK have used a new way to date ancient monuments built during the Neolithic period. Their surprising results may prove some previous written history about this period is wrong.

Archaeologists divide the early history of man into three periods, or eras. These are the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. The Neolithic was at the end of the Stone Age, and is often called the Late Stone Age. During the Neolithic period people used stone tools and lived in villages. They also began

NEWSCAST

EXPENSIVE BOTTLE — Champagne, a fizzy wine made in a region of France – is known as a drink for special occasions, as it is very expensive. A businessman from Singapore has recently set a new world record by paying €30,000 (£26,500) for one bottle of champagne. The bottle is unusual. It was found last year with several others in an old shipwreck at the bottom of the Baltic Sea close to Finland. Finnish local government officials are selling the bottles, which are 170 years old. They say the money will be used to help clean up the polluted Baltic Sea.



to grow certain plants for food and **domesticate** wild animals. The Neolithic happened at different times in different parts of the world. For example, in Egypt it was between roughly 7000 BC and 4500 BC.



Aerial photograph of Neolithic monuments in the UK

In Britain the Neolithic period was from around 4000 BC to 2000 BC. Many parts of the country have ancient monuments built during this period. These are things such as circular enclosures, burial mounds and causeways. The monuments were built out of ditches and earth piled up in banks. Some of the larger circular enclosures are around 300 metres (1,000 feet) wide. It is still not known exactly what they were used for.

Most history books about the Neolithic period in Britain say that these monuments were built over many hundreds of years. Yet the new dating system suggests this is wrong.

In the past, items such as burnt pieces of wood dug up from Neolithic monuments have been dated with a technique called radiocarbon dating. This gives a date range accurate to around 250 years. Another way is studying how deep in the ground certain things are found. The deeper ones are older than the ones found closer to the surface. This does not work out how old the items are, but shows which are older than others.

The new dating system uses both of these, together with a complicated **statistics** program called Bayesian

analysis. The scientists say using this system means items found in Neolithic monuments can be dated to a range of just ten years.

The scientists used the new dating system to study items previously found at 40 different Neolithic monuments. The results show most were built over a period of only 75 years. Some took just a few years to construct. Most of the monuments were built between 3,700 BC and 3,600 BC. This is at the earlier end of historians' estimation of when the Neolithic period was in Britain. So it seems people living in Britain at this time were more advanced and organised than most historians once thought. ■

PRESIDENT OF YEMEN FORCED TO LEAVE

On 5th June Ali Abdullah Saleh, the president of Yemen, flew to Saudi Arabia. With him were several of his advisors. Two days earlier, they had all been injured when a rocket was fired into the presidential palace, in Sanaa, the capital city. The president and his advisors went to Saudi Arabia to get hospital treatment.

President Saleh has controlled Yemen for 32 years. Four months ago, people began street protests against the president and his family. These protests have continued. At first many of the protesters were young people who did not have jobs. They have been demanding democratic elections and accuse many government officials of being corrupt and dishonest. Since the protests began, other older people and even some members of the country's army have joined the demonstrators.

However, not everyone in the country agrees with the protesters.

Those who support the president have frequently gathered to hold their own demonstrations in Sanaa.

The protesters were encouraged by similar demonstrations in Tunisia and Egypt. In Tunisia the president was forced to leave the country. He and his wife are now living in Saudi Arabia. In Egypt, President Hosni Mubarak had to step down and will now be put on trial for crimes he is accused of committing while in power.

Saudi Arabia has been trying to persuade President Saleh to leave Yemen. But until he was wounded in the rocket attack on the presidential palace, he had refused to do so.

It is not known how badly President Saleh is injured. Some reports say his injuries were not serious, while others say he was badly burned and has had to have several operations.



Soon after it was reported that President Saleh had left the country many protesters crowded into the centre of Sanaa to celebrate. They believe he may never come back.

President Saleh's deputy, or vice president, Abed Rabbu Mansour Hadi, is now in charge of the country. However, the president's son and several of his nephews still control the powerful parts of the country's army.

Yemen has several powerful tribal leaders. They also have many followers. Some of them have already

said they oppose President Saleh. It's thought the rocket attack on the presidential palace may have been organised by one of these tribes.

Yemen is **strategically** important to many other countries. This is because it is at the opening of the Red Sea, which leads to the Suez Canal. Oil tankers use this route when taking oil from Saudi Arabia and other countries in the Middle East to different parts of the world. Many other countries therefore have an interest in what happens in Yemen.

Some people hope the vice president will now be able to arrange talks with the tribal leaders and the leaders of the street protests. It may then be possible to set up a transitional government to take charge of the country until new elections can be arranged. ■

PENGUIN WAVES

You may have seen the popular **documentary** film *March of the Penguins*, about one year in the life of Emperor penguins in the Antarctic. Now scientists say they have discovered something new about the behaviour of male Emperor penguins. They think this could help to explain how Emperor penguins survive in one of the coldest places on the Earth.

Male Emperor penguins incubate, or look after, their eggs through the winter months, while the females feed at sea. Large numbers of male penguins gather in one place many kilometres from the sea. When it gets very cold they huddle tightly together, sharing body heat. The penguins are grouped so closely it is difficult for them to move.

When our bodies are cold, one good way to warm up is to move around. Standing still in cold weather

makes us colder and colder. When we are very cold, our bodies make sure blood reaches our important organs and core muscles by reducing the amount going to our **extremities** (our hands and feet). This is why our fingers and toes get numb if we get very cold. If this lasts for a long time, there is a chance of getting frostbite. This is when tissues in the fingers and toes die off.



Emperor penguins

Moving around makes blood flow to all of our muscles. When we're very cold, our bodies try to force this to happen – we shiver. Shivering is a movement we usually don't control – it's our bodies' way of trying to warm up.

So the scientists wondered how the penguins stayed warm without being able to move. They took videos of a penguin huddle. These were time lapsed so one picture was taken every second for several hours.

When the videos were played back at speed, the scientists saw that about every 60 seconds several penguins in a row shuffle a few centimetres one way. Those close by then follow, then the next ones do the same, and so on. All the time, they continue to balance the eggs they are incubating on the tops of their feet.

Their slight movement creates 'waves' that go through the whole group. When looking at a group of penguins huddled together it is not possible to see this movement, but it shows up on a time lapsed video.

So the penguins in the huddle seem to be moving nearly all the time. This, the scientists say, helps them to stay tightly packed together and keeps their blood circulating, both of which keeps them warm. The penguins in the centre of the group also gradually move towards the outside. This means that they take turns at standing on the much colder outside of the huddle.

After the eggs hatch the females return with food for the chicks. By this time the males have not eaten for over 100 days. Once the females have come back, the males return to the sea to feed. ■

SYRIAN ARMY ATTACKS NORTHERN TOWN

The Syrian army, using tanks and helicopters, attacked the town of Jisr ash-Shugur, in the north of the country, on 12th June. Before the attack the army had spent several days surrounding the town. By the time the attack began, nearly everyone living in Jisr ash-Shugur had left. Over 5,000 people from the town and nearby areas crossed the border into Turkey to get away from the fighting.



Protests against the government in Syria began in March. The first took place in the southern town of Daraa, near the border with Jordan. Since then they have spread to other towns in the country.

including some parts of Damascus, the capital city.

Bashar al-Assad is the president of Syria. He became president after his father, Hafez al-Assad, died in 2000. Mr Assad's father had ruled the country since 1971. So the Assad family has controlled Syria for the last 40 years.



Bashar al-Assad

Syria's protests are about similar things that people in other Arab countries, such as Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and Yemen, have recently been demonstrating about. The protesters want to elect their leaders and for the police to have fewer powers. They also accuse many government officials of being dishonest and corrupt.

However, President Assad and his advisors refuse to admit there have been any anti-government protests in Syria. They insist criminals and armed gangs are causing all the problems. Most foreign newspaper reporters have not been allowed into Syria, so it is difficult to know what is really happening.

What happened at Jisr ash-Shugur is an example of this. On 6th June the government said armed gangs had murdered 120 members of the security forces, or army and police, in the town.

Yet local people say the Syrian army was responsible for the killings. They said the 120 soldiers and policemen had refused orders to attack the town, so the army commanders ordered other soldiers to shoot them.

Local people claim the government made up the story so it had an excuse to attack Jisr ash-Shugur.

Some people predict this sort of thing is likely to happen again. This, they say, is because many soldiers are unhappy about being ordered to attack local people.

Many people now worry that a civil war will break out in Syria. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the prime minister of Turkey, says he will not stop Syrians who want to get to a safe place from crossing the border into his country. ■

AKKADIAN DICTIONARY COMPLETED

On 6th June, the University of Chicago, in the USA, announced the completion of a dictionary for a language that has not been used for around 2,000 years. Called the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary, it has 21 volumes. The dictionary was started in 1921 so it has taken 90 years to finish.

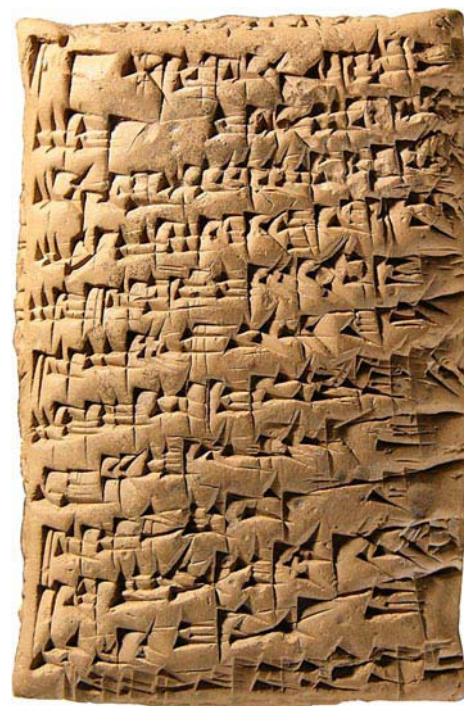
The dictionary is of a language called Akkadian. This language includes several different dialects, or versions, including Assyrian and Babylonian. The language and dialects were spoken in Mesopotamia. This is the name given to the region around the Rivers Tigris and Euphrates. Most of Mesopotamia is now modern-day Iraq.

Between 3000 BC and 600 AD Mesopotamia was the centre of four empires: the Sumer, Akkadian, Babylonian and Assyrian. Archaeologists think it was in Sumer, around 5,000 years ago, that humans first began to permanently live in towns and cities.

Language historians say Akkadian was probably used between 2500 BC and 100 AD. It is written in a

cuneiform script or alphabet – one made up of a series of wedge-like shapes and lines. It was written with a 'pen' made from the stem of a reed plant. Akkadian writers wrote on soft, wet clay tablets that were then left to harden and dry out. The name of the script comes from the Latin word *cuneus*, which means wedge.

Thousands of ancient clay tablets with cuneiform script on them have been found in Iraq. Travellers and explorers from European countries first began collecting them over 300 years ago. The script also appears on some stone monuments. The cuneiform script was eventually deciphered in the 1850s.



Cuneiform script on clay tablet

Some of the clay tablets have information about kings and other powerful people. But most of the writing is about everyday things. These include agreements for paying back borrowed money, the announcement of a baby's birth, and 'shopping lists' of items to be paid for.

The recently completed dictionary contains about 28,000 words. It

has examples of the different ways in which certain words were used. For instance, many examples of how the word 'umu', which means 'day', are listed. The examples for 'umu' take up 17 pages of the dictionary.

One University of Chicago official said it was important to finish the dictionary. This, he explained, is because it was the language of one of the world's earliest civilisations. Mesopotamia, he said, was where the first cities were built, and where important things were invented such as farming with irrigation, the wheel, writing, and the way by which we still measure time in seconds, minutes and hours. ■

DUANWU FESTIVAL

On 6th June people in China, Taiwan and Hong Kong celebrated a national holiday. The day marked the Duanwu festival, also known as the Dragon Boat or Dumpling festival. Many other south east Asian countries, such as Singapore and Malaysia, also celebrated the Duanwu festival.



Dragon boat racing

The date of the festival is based on the Chinese lunar calendar. It takes place on the fifth day of the fifth month in that calendar, and is sometimes called the 'double-fifth' festival. As the festival is based on the Chinese lunar calendar, its date in the Gregorian or Western calendar

(the one that is used internationally) changes each year. This year the double-fifth was on 6th June.

The festival is believed to date back over 2,200 years to the time of a legendary Chinese poet called Qu Yuan. The legend says he deliberately killed himself by jumping into the River Miluo. The poet did this as a protest against the rulers at the time. After he drowned local people threw dumplings into the river as a form of respect for the poet's sacrifice. Their idea was that the fish would eat the dumplings and not touch the body of the drowned poet.

The dumplings traditionally eaten on the day of the festival are called zongzi. They are made of rice and have different fillings. The dumplings are usually wrapped in leaves, and then steamed or boiled.

As the festival takes place at the beginning of summer, it also celebrates fire, the Sun and energy. This means the dragon is a natural emblem, or symbol, of the festival. A big part of the festival is dragon boat racing.

Dragon boats are long and narrow and shaped like large canoes. They are decorated with carvings. The front of the boat has a carving of a dragon's fierce head, and the back is its tail. The boats carry a large drum. The drummer beats a rhythm for the team to paddle. A full dragon boat team has 22 people: 20 to paddle, one drummer, and one person to steer.

The boat races are also said to be related to the legend of Qu Yuan. The boats' drums, and the noise they make, are meant to scare away fish. The boats symbolise going out on the river searching for the body of the drowned poet. Dragon boat races are now popular in many countries and are often used as a

way to raise money for different charities, as people sponsor the racers to take part. ■

NEW CHILDREN'S LAUREATE

On 7th June, a new Children's Laureate was appointed in the UK. The job of the Children's Laureate is to be a [spokesperson](#) for children's reading and books. The person who holds the title is officially given the job by the UK's head of state, currently Queen Elizabeth the Second. The new Children's Laureate is Julia Donaldson.

CHILDREN'S LAUREATES

Quentin Blake (1999-2001)

Anne Fine (2001-2003)

Michael Morpurgo (2003-2005)

Jacqueline Wilson (2005-2007)

Michael Rosen (2007-2009)

Anthony Browne (2009-11)

Julia Donaldson (2011-2013)

The word 'laureate' is now associated with written works, learning and knowledge. For example, the people who are awarded Nobel Prizes each year are known as Laureates. The word comes from Ancient Greece, where small branches of laurel trees, with their leaves attached, were made into crowns and presented to people who had done great things. These included poets and later even those who had won military battles.

The position of Children's Laureate in the UK was created in 1999. The Laureate holds the position for two years. It is given to a writer or [illustrator](#) of children's books. The first Children's Laureate was the illustrator Quentin Blake. He is best known as the person who produced the drawings for the books of Roald Dahl, although

he has illustrated over 250 books by more than 80 different authors.

Julia Donaldson is the author of the picture book *The Gruffalo*. In it, a mouse gets the better of some scary predators in the woods by making up an even scarier monster called a Gruffalo. The predators are so scared by this imaginative creation they run away from the little mouse. When, in the end, it turns out that a Gruffalo really does exist, the mouse must think quickly, and comes up with a clever way to outwit everyone – including the Gruffalo itself. Ms Donaldson has written over 120 books for young readers.

Ms Donaldson says she will support libraries and use her position as Laureate to try to keep them open. Currently a lack of money means many small libraries in the UK are in danger of being closed. She also wants to get involved in stories for deaf children. This is because she has some hearing difficulties herself and she likes to see stories

expressed in sign language. Ms Donaldson says she is interested in helping children perform stories using drama and music.



Julia Donaldson

To celebrate being awarded the position, Ms Donaldson wrote a poem. She says the previous Laureates are heroes of hers. At the official ceremony Anthony Browne, the Children's Laureate for the past two years, handed a Laureate's medal to her. This happens at every ceremony. Each Laureate gives a medal to the next one, to show the job has been passed on.

Both the USA and Ireland have a version of the Children's Laureate. In the USA he or she is known as the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature (the current ambassador is Jon Scieszka), and in Ireland, as the Laureate na nÓg. ■

BIG BIRD ENDANGERED

One of the world's largest and heaviest birds has been declared in danger of becoming extinct. The International Union for the Conservation

of Nature (IUCN) says there may be as few as 250 Great Indian Bustards left in the world.

The IUCN is based in Switzerland. It collects information about animals and plants all over the world. The IUCN works out if any of these are endangered. It puts each species into one of eight classes. These range from 'least concern' (not at risk) to 'extinct' (no individuals left). The IUCN has now put the Great Indian Bustard on its Red List, which means it is 'critically endangered'.

The Great Indian Bustard can grow to one metre (three feet) in height and weigh around 15 kilograms (33 pounds). Although the birds can fly they spend much of their time on the ground. The birds prefer to live in grassland. Great Indian Bustards are omnivorous. They eat seeds, insects such as grasshoppers and beetles, and even small rodents and lizards. The large birds were once common in both India and Pakistan. The few that are left mostly live in sanctuaries, or areas where wildlife is protected.



Great Indian Bustard

One of the IUCN's main jobs is to try to stop different species from becoming extinct. It does this by making both people and governments aware of which species are critically endangered, and gives advice on how they should be saved.

NewsCAST

BINCAM — A university in the UK is testing out a way to make its students think more about recycling. It has started photographing what they put in their rubbish bins. A special kitchen bin has been designed that has a small camera inside the lid. Whenever someone puts something in the bin, it automatically takes a picture and uploads it to a website so everyone can see what was thrown away. The idea is meant to increase the amount of recycled rubbish. The university thinks students will be too embarrassed to throw anything away that could have been recycled, as everyone else will know what they did.

The IUCN believes the main reason for the population of Great Indian Bustards becoming so dangerously low is their habitat. More and more of these grasslands are being used for farming. What's more, farmers are allowed to use pesticides, or chemicals that kill or control certain types of insect. These pesticides can harm the birds.

Another problem is that the Great Indian Bustard makes its nest on the ground and not in trees. This means its eggs are at a greater risk of being taken and eaten by predators such as rats. Conservationists in India are hoping to set up a breeding project to try to increase the number of Great Indian Bustards.

Birdlife International, one of the IUCN's partner organisations, recently released its list of endangered birds. Birdlife International claims the total number of endangered

bird species has increased. It calculates that 13% of the world's bird species are now in danger of extinction. ■

VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN CHILE

The Puyehue-Cordon-Caulle volcano, in the south of Chile, began erupting on 3rd June. The eruption happened along a five kilometre (three mile) long vent, or fissure.

Before the eruption there were many earth tremors in the area. Local officials realised an eruption was about to happen and began telling people living close to the volcano to leave. Over 3,000 people who live and work on dairy farms near the volcano were evacuated to special shelters further away. Schools and some hospitals had to close.

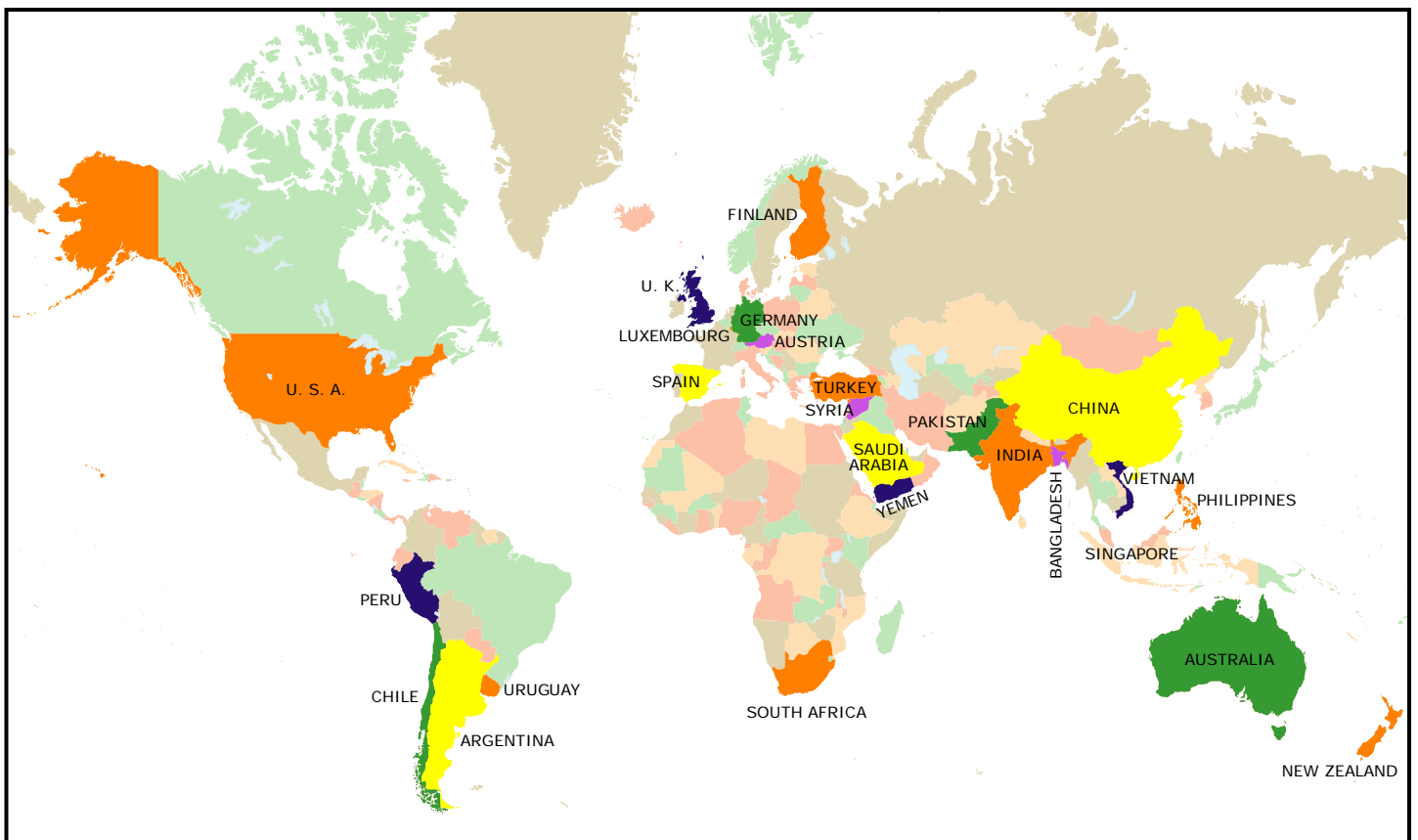
Large amounts of volcanic ash and poisonous gasses were thrown high into the air. Much of the ash was then blown across the border into Argentina.



Pueyehue-Cordon-Caulle volcanic eruption

The land surrounding the volcano was covered in a thick layer of ash. Local officials warned that rivers in the area would overflow. This was likely because the rivers were getting blocked with ash and rocks thrown out by the volcano.

Volcanic ash high in the atmosphere can be a danger to aircraft. If



This map shows countries to which news stories refer in this issue. Visit www.newsademic.com for more detailed world maps.

it gets sucked into planes' engines it can damage them. Two days after the eruption began, the ash cloud reached Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina. Flights due to take off from many parts of Argentina and Uruguay had to be cancelled. The wind then blew the ash the other way across the Pacific Ocean. By 12 June it had reached New Zealand and Australia and caused flights to be cancelled to and from both countries.

Chile has more than 3,000 volcanoes. Around 500 are believed to be active, and 60 have erupted within the last 450 years. The Puyehue-Cordon-Caulle volcano is really a chain of several connected volcanoes.

This chain of volcanoes last erupted over 50 years ago in 1960. The 1960 eruption happened soon after an earthquake in Chile that had a magnitude of 9.5. This is the strongest earthquake that has ever been recorded. Another strong earthquake, this time with a magnitude of 8.8, struck Chile last year. Some experts therefore think as the two strong earthquakes were both followed by eruptions of the volcanic chain, the events must be connected. ■

AIDS SUMMIT

A three-day meeting about AIDS was held at the headquarters of the United Nations (UN) in New York City, in the USA. 2011 marks the 30th anniversary of the discovery of the disease in 1981. Over the last 30 years it is thought that around 22 million people have died of AIDS.

AIDS is an acronym that stands for Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. It is caused by a virus called HIV (Human immunodeficiency virus). Doctors first noticed this new

virus in 1981. By 1984, medical scientists had identified the virus and learned more about what it did.

HIV attacks cells that enable our immune system to work. These are the cells that protect us from infections and viruses. As they are infected, weakened or destroyed by HIV, it means the body can't fight any other illnesses. This is known as AIDS – because the person has a deficiency, or lack, in his or her immune system and is therefore more at risk from other illnesses.



United Nations (UN) AIDS meeting

HIV can be passed from person to person by body fluids, such as blood. When the disease was first identified, some people claimed that getting it was the person's own 'fault'. This is because it was associated with using shared needles to take illegal drugs and having many casual sexual relationships.

Now doctors know a lot more about the reasons why someone might have HIV or AIDS. Having unprotected sex with someone who has HIV is one. If a parent has HIV, his or her child may be born with the disease. The virus can also be transmitted to a baby through the milk of its mother.

Today HIV can be treated with medicines, or drugs, called antiretrovirals. These do not cure HIV but can greatly increase the life expectancy of someone who has the disease, even if he or she has developed AIDS. If HIV is not treated, it usually leads to AIDS.

In some poorer countries, antiretroviral drugs can be difficult to get or too expensive. The UN estimates that today 34 million people around the world have AIDS. Roughly half of these do not realise they have the disease. Sub-Saharan African countries – those south of the Sahara Desert – are the worst affected. The country with the most people with HIV is South Africa.

African leaders at the meeting said the number of people infected with HIV has reduced. This, they said, was because most people now know how to avoid catching the disease and prevent it from spreading. The African leaders want richer countries to help pay for treatment for the estimated nine million people who have the disease but have not yet received antiretroviral drugs.

Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the UN, made a speech at the meeting. He set the target of no newborn children with HIV by 2015. Mothers with HIV who get

NewsCast

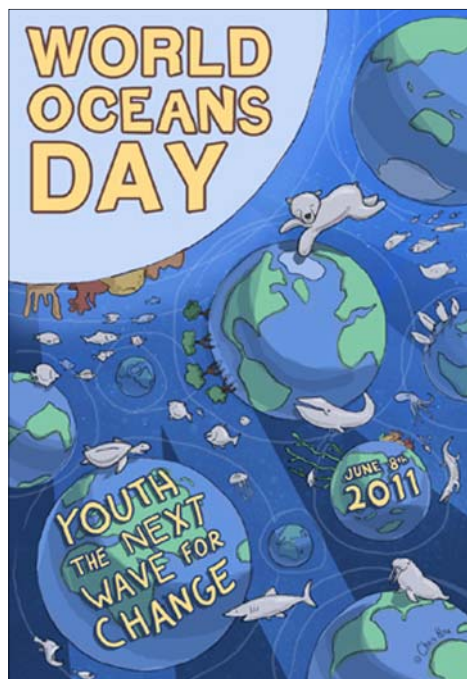
BANGLADESHI ROBIN HOOD — In Bangladesh, some people were pleased to hear that a thief had finally been caught. Yet others were not so pleased. The man was known for frequently giving money to local organisations, such as orphanages and mosques. However, others say he must have kept a lot of the money he stole and not given it all away, as he lived in a large expensive house. Local people said he was very generous and often gave money to those that needed it. Some are even saying that he was similar to Robin Hood, a legendary English character who stole from the rich to give to the poor.

the antiretroviral drug have less chance of passing the virus onto their newborn children. The Secretary-General also said that by 2015, 15 million people who have HIV will receive treatment – around double the number who currently take the drugs. ■

WORLD OCEANS DAY

Each year since 1992, 8th June has been celebrated as World Oceans Day. The theme for the 2011 World Oceans Day was ‘Youth: the next wave for change’.

Several organisations, including the United Nations (UN), help to organise World Oceans Day. One is called The Ocean Project. It helps zoos, aquariums and museums work together to make sure they are teaching people about the importance of, and the need to look after, the oceans.



Oceans cover roughly 70% of the Earth's surface. They provide food and a way by which goods can be transported all around the world. They are also important for

recreation. Many people enjoy holidays by the sea, and water sports.

One problem for the oceans is overfishing. This is when too many adult fish are caught, so there are not enough left to breed and produce young ones. If this happens, the total number goes down and down. One way of stopping this is to only catch older fish so that the young adults are left to breed. Other problems include pollution and climate change.

The organisers of World Oceans Day say they hope this year's theme – which will be the 2012 theme as well – will encourage young people to think about the importance of the oceans. They say today young people are more willing than older people to do something about ocean conservation. The organisers hope people will do things to help the oceans throughout the year and not just on one day.

The Empire State building, one of the tallest in New York City, in the USA, was lit up for World Oceans Day. The top part was white, below that were blue lights, then purple, and the lower parts of the building were left dark. The white top represented the shallowest sunlit waters, the blue and purple the deeper waters below, and the black was the parts of the ocean where no sunlight reaches. This was to show it is not just the top parts of the ocean that need to be looked after, but the much deeper darker parts as well.

Three days after World Oceans Day, on 11th June, ocean-lovers celebrated Cap Rouge Day. ‘Cap Rouge’ is the French for ‘red hat’. Cap Rouge Day was first celebrated last year, on the 100th anniversary of the birth of Jacques-Yves Cousteau (1910-1997), a French undersea explorer.

Mr Cousteau made many films during his lifetime that showed people some of the amazing creatures and plants in the oceans. His popular films inspired many to study the oceans, become divers, or just want to help protect sea life. Mr Cousteau was known for the distinctive knitted red cap he wore. ■

TYPEFACES AND LEARNING

Some people don't care about the typeface or font of the text they read. For others it can be so important they might stop reading text in a font they dislike. Scientists in the USA have just completed a study on how different typefaces affect how we learn things.

AaBbCc	Sans serif font
AaBbCc	Serif font
AaBbCc	Serif font (red serifs)

Today most people use the words font – originally spelt fount – and typeface to mean the same thing. But this is not really true. A typeface can appear in many different styles, such as bold and italic, and larger and smaller sizes. Each of these styles and sizes is a different font. So each typeface can have many fonts.

In the past, each individual letter or number of a typeface and all its fonts were made out of tiny pieces of metal (lead) and placed alongside each other to make words. Ink was rolled on them and they were pressed against a piece of paper to make a printed page. Designing a new typeface and making all the fonts took a very long time.

Using computers to design new typefaces is much easier and quicker. So today we have many to choose from. One of the more recent is Comic Sans, designed by the Microsoft Company in 1994.

Comic Sans is a sans serif font. Serifs are the little extra details on the letters and numbers of some typefaces. An example of serifs is the horizontal lines on the top and bottom of a capital 'I'. This helps us to distinguish a capital 'I' from a lower-case 'l'.

The term 'sans serif' comes from French. 'Sans' means 'without'. So sans serif typefaces have no serifs on the letters. An example of a sans serif typeface is Arial.

Today many newspapers (including Newsademic) use serif typefaces for the text of the articles. Many people find serifs make a printed page easier to read. Text on web pages is usually a sans serif, as serif typefaces are considered harder to read onscreen.

Comic Sans

The recent study was done not to find out which fonts are easier to read, but which ones make it easier to learn and remember what we have read.

In particular, the scientists looked at Comic Sans. Microsoft says Comic Sans was designed to look friendly and not too technical. Yet over the years many designers have said they dislike the font. One reason is that Comic Sans has become so widely used, even in documents that are meant to be serious.

In the study, volunteers read some printed text about three made-up alien species with funny names. They had 90 seconds to study it. One group read an easy-to-read serif typeface, while the other group read the same text in Comic Sans. They then had a 15-minute break in which they were distracted and asked to not think about what they had been reading. Both groups were then tested on how much they remembered. Those who had studied the Comic Sans remembered more information than people who read the text in the serif typeface.

The scientists think this has something to do with the learning experience. They think certain typefaces help people to become more engaged in what they are reading. The scientists believe when we have to struggle to read something, we learn and remember much more information than if reading about it had been easier.

DEVIL-LIKE WORMS

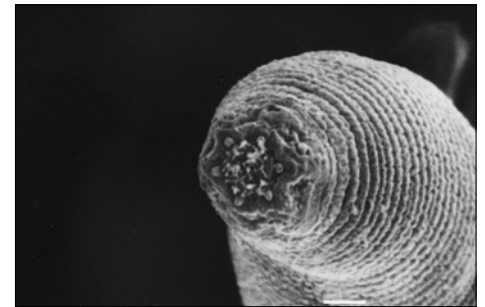
South Africa is famous for its gold mines. Some are the deepest in the world, going down more than 3,500 metres (11,700 feet). The temperature of the rocks at the bottom is very high. As they are much closer to the Earth's hot liquid mantle, these rocks are much hotter than those nearer the surface.

Recently, scientists have announced that some South African mines contain more than just gold. They are also the home of a type of worm, which is now the deepest-living land creature ever discovered.

The worm has been given the name *Halicephalobus mephisto* after Mephistopheles, a legendary devil-like creature. The word

Mephistopheles may have been made up from Greek words that mean 'he who dislikes the light'.

The scientists who found the worms are experts at studying extremophiles. This word describes living things that have evolved to survive in extreme conditions. These include places where there is no light or little oxygen, two things normally needed for life to exist. Until now, only simple single-celled organisms such as bacteria have been found living so deep under the Earth's surface.



Magnified picture of the newly-discovered *Halicephalobus mephisto*

The tiny worms were discovered in some water in the deep gold mines. The scientists found them by covering boreholes in the mine with a very fine filter. These boreholes drain away water. The worms were caught in the filter. The water, which is heated by the rocks, can reach a temperature of 48°C (118°F). It contains less than one percent of the oxygen found in seawater.

The worms are a type of nematode or roundworm that feed off bacteria. There are roughly 30,000 species of nematode in the world. Roundworms are found almost everywhere. Most are less than two millimetres (0.08 inches) long and many can only be seen with a microscope.

The scientists were surprised that a multi-celled organism can survive in the water in the mine. Yet they

say that if any complex organism were to be found in a place like this, it would probably be a type of nematode. This is because nematodes have already been discovered in several **inhospitable** places such as on the deep ocean floor.

One reason the scientists are excited about the discovery of *Hali- cephalobus mephisto* is that it could mean there is life on planets thought to be 'dead'.

It's believed that many millions of years ago Mars might have had an atmosphere. If this is true there may have been some life forms on the planet in the distant past. Scientists therefore wonder, if a multi-celled extremophile organism such as *Hali- cephalobus mephisto* can live deep underground, whether similar tiny creatures could be living under the surface of Mars. ■

NEW PRESIDENT IN PERU

On 6th June it was announced that Ollanta Humala had won the presidential election in Peru, held the previous day. He will officially take over from Alan Garcia, the current president, on 28th July. In Peru a president is allowed to serve for a five year term and President Garcia's term will soon come to an end.

Mr Humala's opponent was Keiko Fujimori. The voting was close. Mr Humala beat Ms Fujimori by around 450,000 votes out of a total of 15.2 million. He got 51.5% of the votes, and Ms Fujimori 48.5%.

Presidential elections in Peru can have two rounds. If in the first round no candidate gets more than 50% of the votes, a second is held between the two people who got the most votes in the first.

This is what happened in the recent election. The first round, with ten candidates, was held in April. Mr Humala and Ms Fujimori came first and second. This was unusual because Mr Humala is what people call a left-wing politician and Ms Fujimori is right-wing. The candidates in the 'centre', or between the left and right wings, were all eliminated in the first round.



Keiko Fujimori and Ollanta Humala

Left-wing and right-wing politicians have very different beliefs. Left-wing politicians believe the government is responsible for public welfare and for giving everyone shared access to a country's wealth and services. Right-wing politicians think it's not the government's job to **enforce** this sort of equality and that people are responsible for creating their own wealth. Politicians in the 'centre' believe in a mix of both 'left' and 'right' policies.

Currently, in South America most countries' elected presidents are from the left, such as President Chávez of Venezuela, President Rousseff of Brazil, President Kirchner of Argentina, and President Morales of Bolivia. President Santos of Colombia and President Piñera of Chile are the only right-wing leaders among the larger South American countries.

Peru has a strong economy, but many people in the country are still very poor. Mr Humala

says he plans to create new jobs, build new homes, and make sure everyone has a supply of water and electricity.

Ms Fujimori's supporters say they worry that Mr Humala's policies, or ideas, may ruin the economy. In the past he has said that he admired President Chávez of Venezuela. President Chávez has arranged for many large companies in his country to be nationalised. This means they have been taken over by government officials. Many of those who voted for Ms Fujimori think it would be a very bad idea if something similar were to happen in Peru.

However, Mr Humala says he does not intend to copy what President Chávez has done. Instead he says he wants to make similar decisions to those made by President Lula da Silva of Brazil. Mr Lula was Brazil's president between 2003 and 2010. During his time in office Brazil's economy grew and large amounts of money were spent helping poorer people. Mr Lula was sometimes described as 'the most popular politician in the world'. ■

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Editor: Amber Thody

Acknowledgements:

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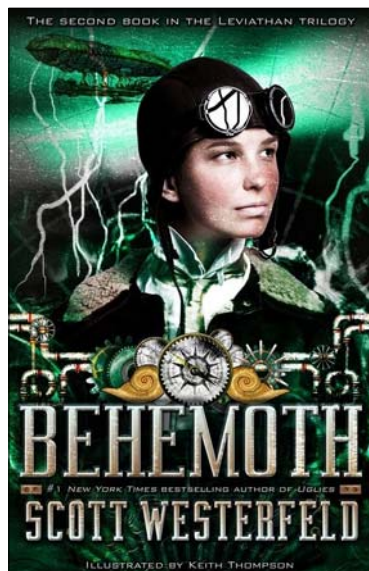
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B O O K R E V I E W

HAVE YOU READ ...?



In this steampunk alternative history, we're taken back to the early years of the 20th century, when the assassination of members of the Austrian Royal family sends ripples throughout Europe. In our history, the effect of those ripples led to the First World War. Here, the author has made a few small changes...

For starters, the Germans and their allies are known as the Clankers, because they have devoted

themselves to the mechanical sciences and industry. The British are known as the Darwinists, named after the famous naturalist explorer Charles Darwin, who came up with the Theory of Evolution.

The Darwinists have focused their technological development on living things, such as Leviathan, a great living airship that serves the British Empire. In *Behemoth*, the crew members of the Leviathan find themselves over the Mediterranean Sea on an important mission to the Ottoman Empire.

The story has two main characters. Alek is the last surviving member of the Austrian Royal Family and heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary. He must keep his identity a secret, since there are many important people who would like to get their hands on such a strategically important youth. And Darwinist Midshipman Deryn must also hide 'his' identity...as girls aren't allowed in the Royal Air Corps. Deryn has managed so far, but the author creates plenty of opportunities for near-misses and close calls.

I gained a great deal of respect for Scott Westerfeld when I realised how much research he must have done to write this book. He took great care in preserving the main events of history during this important era while at the same time changing the [fundamentals](#) of science and industry to show us a 'what if?' perspective. For example, while the British are pure Darwinists and the Germans pure Clankers, other societies of the era, such as the Americans, tend to be a mix of both.

I was fascinated with the history while I enjoyed the story. For instance, did you know of the *Sultan Osman* warship? The Ottoman Empire had paid the British naval yard to build and commission the *Osman*. But, I was really amazed to learn, the British Empire seized, or stole, the warship! I could understand why the British kept it, fearing that if the Ottoman Empire were to join the Germans in the war, it would be used against them. However, many historians argue that this action is what pushed the Ottoman Empire to side against the British! This book helped me imagine how the British and the Ottoman Empires probably felt about this and many other events of the time.

The scope of the story is splendid and the quick pace of events always, somehow, mirrors the reality of the First World War. For example, while travelling across the Mediterranean Sea, the Leviathan encounters two Clanker warships, the *Breslau* and the *Goebden*, heading for Istanbul. The ships are trapped in the Mediterranean Sea because the British hold the Forts of Gibraltar. But right when you feel yourself comfortable in the history, the author throws in something unexpected – for instance, arming one of the ships with a Tesla lightning cannon!

This story is the sequel to *Leviathan*, and the title, *Behemoth*, refers to the Darwinists' newest advancement in the biological sciences: a fearsome monster of the deep, much more powerful than a Kraken and capable of changing the course of the war.

This story is best suited for readers aged ten and up. The third in the series, *Goliath*, comes out in October.

Behemoth by Scott Westerfeld. Simon and Schuster.

Reviewed by Chris Tarn

WANT US TO REVIEW A BOOK THAT YOU HAVE READ AND ENJOYED?

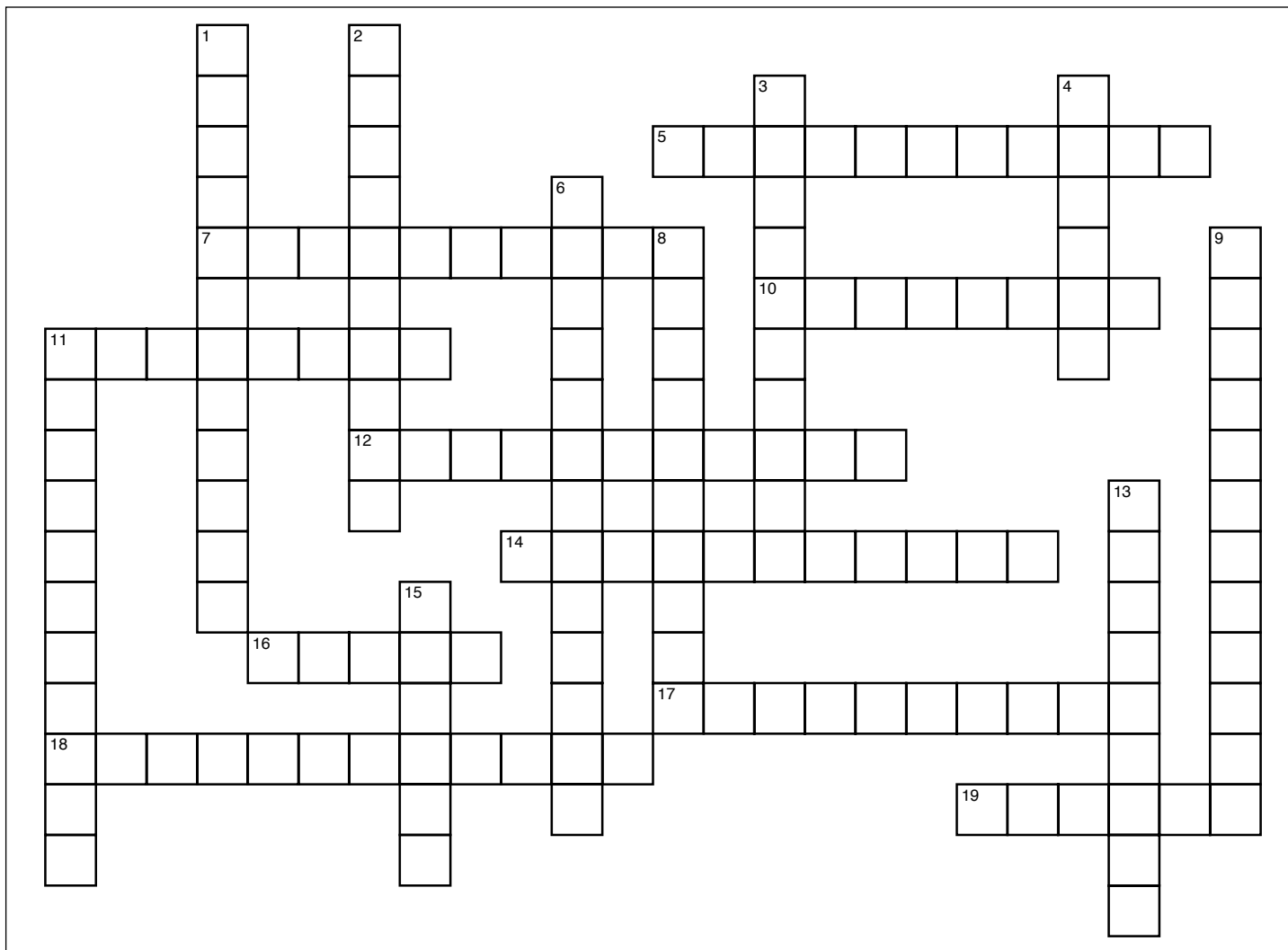
If you do, look for the 'recommended book' link in your subscriber menu when you log in to our website.

Complete the form and tell us why you enjoyed the book. If we review your choice, we'll mention your name and include some of your comments.

ISSUE 147

GLOSSARY PUZZLE

INSTRUCTIONS: ① Complete the crossword. The answers are highlighted in orange in the news stories. There are 25 words highlighted and you need 20 of them to complete the crossword. ② Once you have solved the crossword go to the word search on the next page ➡



Across

- 5 Verb** To bring animals or plants under human control for transport, food, power or companionship
7 Verb Changes from a liquid into a gas
10 Adjective Relating to sailing, ships or sailors
11 Adjective Describes something that causes an argument or disagreement
12 Noun (Plural) The parts of something that are farthest away from the main part
14 Adjective Describes something that is easy to recognise because it is different from other things
16 Noun A meeting at which people exchange their views and opinions
17 Noun Something that can take the place of, or be used instead of, something else
18 Adjective Describes a place that is difficult to live in
19 Noun (Plural) Poisonous substances

Down

- 1 Noun** Somebody authorised to speak on behalf of another person, company or organisation
2 Verb Discovered the meaning of something, especially a code
3 Noun Bullets, bombs or rockets that can be fired from a weapon
4 Adjective Happening without being planned or thought about
6 Adverb Relating to military or political plans to gain an advantage
8 Noun (Plural) Organised collection of numerical information
9 Noun (Plural) The basic or most important parts of an activity or subject
11 Verb To recognise a difference among two or more things, people or groups
13 Verb Measuring or recording the details of an area of land or sea
15 Noun (Plural) Numbers or quantities of something that are officially allowed

ISSUE 147

GLOSSARY PUZZLE *CONTINUED*

Y B Y I L T K U P O G G Y E E U J E
 D L U B I A X N C V N P L P S D T L
 T I L F O R U M U I N O D U L I S B
 L X C A N W C S Y F A C B I M S L A
 M J H I C F Q E A Q U S U E D T A T
 E H M A P I V U L C T Y T G K I T I
 V M O D M R G J O I I A G E T N N P
 A G T D U M P E T T C T G X D G E S
 P K W S I E U U T I A Q W T E U M O
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 E R Y T O H L X U C N O Z T I X F X
 S V E D S J G T T G T F N I C Y U B
 B M Q X I D E D B G Z I D E E A O O
 A C G W B D M I V I B L V S D O L N
 N O S R E P S E K O P S F E G M F Q

INSTRUCTIONS: ③ Find 19 of the 20 crossword answers in the word search. Words can go vertically, horizontally, diagonally and back to front. ④ After finding the 19 words write down the 20th (or missing) word under the puzzle.

Demics are tokens that Individual and Family Subscribers can earn. They are awarded for answering this Glossary Puzzle and/or the Daily News question – accessible by logged in users – correctly. Demics earned can be used by Family and Individual Subscribers in the Newsademic online store.

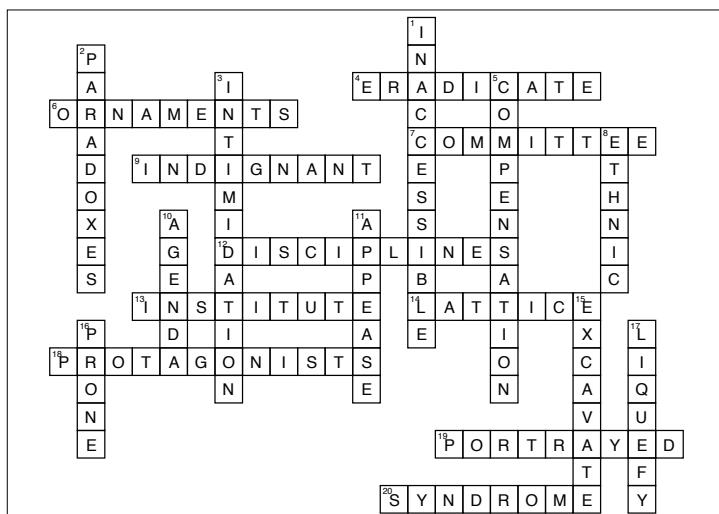


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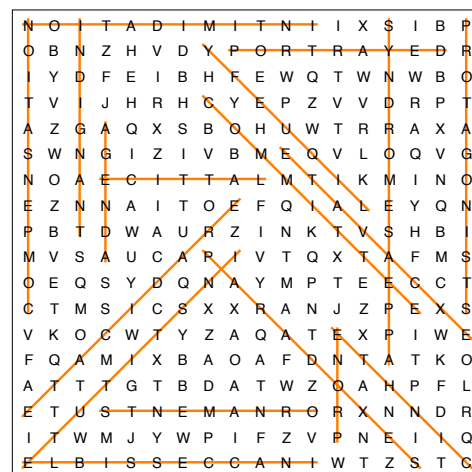
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MISSING WORD ANSWER =



ISSUE 146 ANSWERS



DISCIPLINES